

ORNITHOLOGY.—*Notes on tailorbirds (Orthotomus) from the Philippine Islands.*¹ ERNST MAYR, American Museum of Natural History. (Communicated by H. G. DEIGNAN.)

A study of the Philippine tailorbirds in the United States National Museum, which H. G. Deignan made after the publication of *Birds of the Philippines* (1946), by J. Delacour and E. Mayr, posed some puzzling questions. He therefore suggested to me to revise the species *cinereiceps* and *nigriceps*, and in particular to investigate the possibility of a subspecific distinctness of the Basilan and Mindanao populations of *O. cinereiceps*, as well as the possible specific distinctness of *O. samarensis*. The ultimate results have validated Mr. Deignan's suggestions. A study of these two rare species was possible only through the courtesy of the curators of the U. S. National Museum, the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy who lent me material.

Orthotomus cinereiceps Sharpe

The type of this species was collected on Basilan (Ibis, 1877: 113). The specimen is recorded as an adult male, but chin and upper throat are white, while these parts are sooty black in a very uniform series of six adult males before me. An unsexed bird (U.S.N.M. no. 211076) also has a white chin and upper throat, but its sex can not be determined since its tail is molting. There is no difference in the coloration of males and females according to McGregor's *Manual of Philippine birds* (p. 577), but the remarks in the *Catalogue of birds of the British Museum* (7: 222) indicate that the type may have been a female and that females always have white on the upper throat. The only certain female examined by me (M.C.Z. no. 194584) has much white on the throat and only an indication of a black collar across the lower throat. The specimen, which may be partly immature, has a much shorter tail than the adult males (40 against 55–59 mm) and both wings and tail are washed with rufous. More collecting, particularly of females, is needed to establish the sequence of plumages and the amount of sexual dimorphism in this species.

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Three adult males from Mindanao agree in measurements fairly well with Basilan birds, but differ in coloration. They belong to an undescribed race which may be named—

Orthotomus cinereiceps obscurior, n. subsp.

Type.—U.S.N.M. no. 210841, ♂ ad., Cagan (1,100 feet), Mindanao, Philippines; May 19, 1906, Dr. E. A. Mearns.

Description.—Similar to *cinereiceps* but darker. Crown of a deeper, sootier gray. The green of the back of a deeper shade of olive; black of throat extending further down on the breast; middle of belly ashy gray, not whitish.

Wing, ♂ 48.5, 49, 50 against 47–51 (49.5) in *cinereiceps*; tail 50, 58, against 55, 55, 56, 59 mm.

Range.—Mindanao. Specimens from the type locality and from Lake Lanao (Philadelphia Academy) examined.

Orthotomus nigriceps Tweeddale

Chin, throat, and chest of adult males are entirely black, according to McGregor (*op. cit.*, p. 578). These parts are more or less mixed with white in the two female specimens examined by me. A female from Butúan, Mindanao, in the U. S. National Museum, has chin and upper throat mottled black and white, while lower throat and upper breast are black with white, droplike shaft streaks. In a distinctly immature female in the American Museum, the crown is grayish black while chin and upper throat are almost solid white. The lower throat is white with grayish edges to the feathers. The tails of both birds seem to be darker and more rufous than the back, particularly in the American Museum specimen. These specimens suggest that there is sexual dimorphism in this species and that the Butúan bird is the adult female of the species. Additional material is required to settle the question of the plumages of this species.

Orthotomus samarensis Steere

This species agrees in the coloration of its upperparts, particularly the black crown, and in the shortness of the tail so well with *nigri-*

ceps that I treated the two forms as conspecific in *Birds of the Philippines* (p. 202). However, *samarensis* is very distinct in other respects. It lacks the white superciliary of *nigriceps* and differs widely from that species in the color of

the underparts, which are fairly similar in the two sympatric species *nigriceps* and *cinereiceps*. I therefore accept H. G. Deignan's suggestion to consider *Orthotomus samarensis* as a full species.

ZOOLOGY.—*Some Mexican urocoptid mollusks.*¹ PAUL BARTSCH, U. S. National Museum.

Ing. Alberto R. V. Arellano, of Mexico, D. F., has transmitted to me a small sending of land shells, which among other things contains a new species of the genus *Holospira* and extends the range of *Bostrichocentrum goldmani* Bartsch. Of this collection Sr. Arellano says that they "are from near the village of Petlalcingo, State of Puebla, very close to the border of the State of Oajaca and on the so-called 'Pan-American Highway' 309 kilometers from Mexico City. Elevations range from 1,400 to 1,500 meters. Vegetation is luxuriant cacti-mezquite, with giant cereus (much like the saguaros of Arizona and Sonora) being a prominent feature. Country-rock is Cretaceous limestone and marl and topography consists of large hills with rounded sides, the valleys being narrow. Locally the people refer to the smaller hills (100 meters relief) as 'mogotes,' which as far as I know is the only case in Mexico where this Cuban term is used."

The new species may be known as:

Holospira albertoi, n. sp.

Fig. 1

Shell cylindroconic, white, thin, translucent. The nucleus consists of about 1.5 smooth turns, the last of which is a little wider than the first postnuclear whorl. The postnuclear whorls increase very gradually in size until the middle of the spire is attained; from here on they are of equal width and render the shell cylindrical. All the postnuclear turns are marked by slender, sublamellar, retractively slanting axial ribs, which are separated by spaces three to five times the width of the ribs; they extend equally strong from the summit of the whorls to the umbilicus. Suture very slightly constricted. Periphery of the last whorl well

rounded. Base slightly contracted, well rounded, and narrowly openly umbilicated. Last whorl solute for about one-eighth of a turn. Aperture subcircular with a weak notch at the posterior angle. Peristome strongly reflected and thickened. Columella very slightly twisted, slender, hollow, bearing a strong fold in the penultimate whorl, which is well rounded on its free edge and which extends one-third of the way across the whorl, approximating the parietal fold a little more closely than the basal one. The parietal fold is thin



FIG. 1.—*Holospira albertoi*, n. sp.

and outward-curved and about double the width of the basal fold, which is slightly inward bent. Both the basal and parietal folds are inserted in the middle of the turns, and their free edges point toward each other, leaving a space of one-quarter of the width of the whorl between them. The lateral fold is a mere thread on the inside of the outer lip opposite the open space between the basal and parietal folds. All four folds are confined to the penultimate whorl.

The type, U.S.N.M. no. 543495, was collected by Sr. Arellano "from steep west bank of gully on southeast lower flank of Cerro Chimeco. The snails were in hardened limonitic soil developed from the underlying Cretaceous

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